

October 23, 2006

Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Attention: Chairman Kevin Martin
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein

Dear Commissioners:

RE: Support BellSouth / AT&T Merger, WC Docket No. 06-74

As President of McNeese State University, I believe that the merger of AT&T and BellSouth will deliver new and innovative broadband technologies to improve Louisiana and our nation's educational capabilities. Therefore, I urge you to approve the merger promptly.

From distance learning to cutting-edge, in-classroom tools, our students and educators are already learning how technology can open new doors. Yet, we have barely begun to scratch the surface regarding the innovations in education brought on by communications technology. For this reason, the FCC should approve the merger of these two great American communications companies as quickly as possible.

We were pleased to learn recently that AT&T and BellSouth have proposed post-merger commitments, including a promise to bring affordable and universal broadband

October 23, 2006

coverage to Louisiana's parents and students. Specifically, AT&T and BellSouth have offered:

- A \$10 monthly residential broadband Internet service offering.
- A pledge to make available broadband Internet access to all residential living units in the AT&T/BellSouth footprint, including rural America and lower income housing units.

This broadband commitment will greatly benefit our educational system by:

- Speeding the deployment of exciting new broadband-based technologies and other promising innovations to our nation's schools and libraries and to students' homes.
- Providing new economic growth and jobs for our young people.
- Enhancing distance learning capabilities, such as offering students greater access to advanced placement and other classes, providing new educational tools for students and others with disabilities, and providing new cost-effective learning tools that will enhance America's global competitiveness.

Given the positive impact these commitments will bring to our educational system and young people, I urge you to approve the AT&T/BellSouth merger at the earliest possible date.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Hebert
President

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